

Carrot River's Inscribed Rock Mystery This ran in the Tisdale Recorder

It was a scorching day in July, 2003, when Ken, Lori and Monika Wolowski along with Jamie Adelman were looking for a swimming hole. They were exploring a picturesque, rapidy stretch of the Carrot River 10.5 kilometers downstream from the Smokey Burn low level crossing when Jamie cried out: "Hey! There's writing on this rock!"

Yeah, sure, the other's thought, probably, Grad '86 or Frank loves Monnel. Just the same they waded over—and were stunned to see that lettering was *chiseled* into the flat face of a boulder! It was smack in the middle of the river, facing downstream—making it impossible for anyone paddling a birchbark canoe upstream to miss it.

And it would have had to have been of birchbark because of the date: 1912. "S. J. SIMONSON" it seems to read. "NORWAY" is below. All is surrounded by a border and on the right, outside the border like an afterthought, is the date.

At Wolowski's Rockridge Outfitting camp a half mile upstream, on a glacial til cliff overlooking rocky rapids, is a decaying log cabin. Speculation is that Mr. Simonson was a trapper, and a lonely one. One who wanted to leave his mark, however small, behind.



This boulder, found sitting in the middle of the Carrot River with writing and the date 1912 chiseled into it, piqued the curiosity of the group who discovered it. They are hoping that somebody may be able to shed some light on the person who did the chiseling all those years ago. Photo submitted by Jason Schoonover.



A close-up of the words inscribed in the boulder. Notice the date on the right.